

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph at page 7, line 24 – page 8, line 5, with the following amended text:

A poker (an auxiliary device) 205 is provided at the bagging and packaging machine 200 to facilitate or improve the flow of the articles M. As shown in FIG. 2, the poker 205 has an L-shaped arm E. A clapper H is provided on the tip end of the arm E. A base Eo of the arm E is connected to an output shaft Mo of a motor through a reduction gear unit (which is not shown). By the rotation of the motor, the arm E moves angularly from an initial position indicated by a solid line to an operating position indicated by a double-dotted line, whereby the clapper H projects into an introduction chute 203 and claps the articles M within the introduction chute 203 to cause the articles M to fall downward, facilitating or improving the flow of the articles M (see, for example, the Japanese ~~examined Utility Model~~ Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 3-1362 10-236408).

Please replace the paragraph at page 15, lines 1-10, with the following amended text:

In the aforementioned embodiment, the determination means 21a determines the deviation of the sealing timing based on the determination as to whether or not the weight of the articles M is defective. The determination is not necessarily carried out based on the weight of the articles M. For example, if the sealing timing has deviated, the articles M are bit into the sealed portion of the bag F2 (FIG. 4). To avoid this, another arrangement may be made in that a bite detecting means is provided at the end sealer (see, for example,

the Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 5-278729 7-187153)  
and, when the detecting means detects bite, the sealing timing is  
automatically changed.